

Remarks

Further and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Thus, in response to the rejection of claims 1-34 under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112, claim 1 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner, rendering this rejection moot.

The patentability of the presently claimed invention over the disclosures of the references relied upon by the Examiner in rejecting the claims will be apparent upon consideration of the following remarks.

All of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), based on Shiota et al. alone, or combined with one or more other references, are the same as the rejections set forth in the previous Office Action, and are respectfully traversed. In responding to the previous Office Action, Applicants attempted to establish common ownership between the present application and the Shiota et al. reference by submitting copies of recorded Assignment documents for the present application and the Shiota et al. reference. During a telephone discussion with the Examiner on January 10, 2007, Applicants' attorney was informed that it would be necessary to establish common ownership at the time the invention was made. This is also noted by the Examiner on page 6 of the present Office Action.

Accordingly, Applicants are enclosing a Statement of Common Ownership, which they respectfully submit is effective to overcome all of the prior art rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

The Examiner has also set forth obviousness-type double patenting rejections corresponding to each of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). As noted by the Examiner, these rejections can be overcome by filing a Terminal Disclaimer. A Terminal Disclaimer is enclosed herewith, rendering each of the obviousness-type double patenting rejections moot.

Therefore, in view of the foregoing amendment, and remarks, together with the attached Statement of Common Ownership and Terminal Disclaimer, it is submitted that each of the grounds of rejection set forth by the Examiner has been overcome, and that the application is in condition for allowance. Such allowance is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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